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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twelfth session
Geneva, 1 - 19 May 1995

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The twelfth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 19 May 1995. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 1 May 1995, at 10.30 a.m.

2. The attached provisional agenda and annotations for the twelfth session of the Committee have been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

3. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6 containing the list of reports that will be before the Committee at its twelfth session.

GE.95-15816

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

2. Election of officers

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Organization of work.

5. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with article 16 of the Covenant.

6. Consideration of reports:

   (a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with article 16 of the Covenant;

   (b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant.

7. General discussion: "The interpretation and practical application of the obligations incumbent upon States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"

8. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies.

9. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session

The twelfth session of the Committee will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 14 of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, with due regard for equitable geographical representation.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of its officers when required under rule 14. In accordance with rule 6 the Committee, during a session, may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, delete or defer items.

4. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, at the beginning of each session, the Committee shall consider appropriate organizational matters, including the schedule of its meetings. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to the draft programme of work for the session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee and in accordance with established practice (E/C.12/1995/L.1).

5. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 59, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall at each session consider the status of submission of reports under article 16 of the Covenant and may make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including recommendations to the effect that the Secretary-General should send reminders to States parties from which reports have not been received.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following documents:

(a) Revised schedule for the submission of reports by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1990/5);

(b) A note by the Secretary-General on the States parties to the Covenant and the status of submission of reports (E/C.12/1995/2).

6. Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 61, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties under article 16 of the Covenant in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. Representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined; such representatives should be able to make statements on the reports submitted by their Governments and reply to questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

At its eleventh session, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to schedule five reports from five States parties for consideration at its twelfth session. In addition, the Committee decided, as follow-up action with respect to earlier decisions, to review the implementation of article 11.1 of the Covenant by Panama.

In accordance with rule 62, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the opening date and duration of the twelfth session of the Committee as well as of the dates at which their respective reports will be examined and has invited them to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee.

As at 10 March 1995, the reports listed below had been received by the Secretary-General. The reports of the States parties which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twelfth session are identified by an asterisk. The tentative timetable for consideration of those reports, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, is contained in document E/C.12/1995/L.1.

Initial reports concerning articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant

Philippines*	E/1986/3/Add.17

Initial reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

Republic of Korea*	E/1990/5/Add.19
Suriname*	E/1990/5/Add.20
Mauritius	E/1990/5/Add.21
Algeria	E/1990/5/Add.22
Paraguay	E/1990/5/Add.23
El Salvador	E/1990/5/Add.24
Guatemala	E/1990/5/Add.25

Second periodic reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

Portugal*	E/1990/6/Add.6
Dominican Republic	E/1990/6/Add.7

Third periodic reports concerning articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant

Sweden*	E/1994/104/Add.1
Colombia	E/1994/104/Add.2
Norway	E/1994/104/Add.3
Ukraine	E/1994/104/Add.4
Spain	E/1994/104/Add.5

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 67 of its rules of procedure, the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering the reports submitted by specialized agencies pursuant to article 18 of the Covenant.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make statements on matters falling within the scope of the activities of their respective organization in the course of the discussion by the Committee of the report of each State party to the Covenant. The representatives of the States parties presenting reports to the Committee shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the statements made by the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General has invited the following specialized agencies to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Any report which may be received from the specialized agencies under article 18 of the Covenant will be made available to the Committee in due course.

7. General discussion: "The interpretation and practical application of the obligations incumbent upon States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"

At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that Monday, 15 May 1995 would be a day of general discussion devoted to the interpretation and practical application of the obligations incumbent upon States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In this connection, the Committee indicated that this discussion is partly designed to assist the new members of the Committee and partly to provide an opportunity for the Committee as a whole to discuss the most appropriate and effective ways of promoting compliance by States parties with their obligations.

8. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies

The Committee decided at its sixth session to nominate individual members to follow the work of each of the other treaty bodies. Such members are to follow as closely as possible the work of the relevant committees, to liaise where possible with members of these committees and to present an oral report on

developments of both a procedural and substantive nature in their work which appeared to be of specific relevance to the work of the Committee (E/1992/23, paras. 371-373).

9. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies

Pursuant to rule 64 of its rules of procedure, the Committee may wish to make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and the reports submitted by specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The Committee may also wish to make suggestions for consideration by the Council with reference to articles 19, 22 and 23 of the Covenant.

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twelfth session
Geneva, 1-19 May 1995

STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND STATUS OF THE SUBMISSION OF REPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME ESTABLISHED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN RESOLUTION 1988/4 AND RULE 58 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entered into force on 3 January 1976, three months after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification, as provided for in article 27 of the Covenant.

2. As at 10 March 1995, the Covenant had been ratified or acceded to by 130 States. A list of States parties as well as information on the status of the submission of reports by States parties, is to be found in the annex to the present document.

GE.95-15858 (E)

Annex

STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT AND STATUS OF SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

(as of 10 March 1995)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
1. Afghanistan	24 April 1983	E/1990/5/Add.8 (E/C.12/1991/SR.2, 4-6 and 8)					
2. Albania	4 January 1992	Overdue					
3. Algeria	12 December 1989	E/1990/5/Add.22 (Pending consideration)					
4. Angola	10 April 1992	Overdue					
5. Argentina	8 November 1986	E/1990/5/Add.18 (E/C.12/1994/SR.31, 32, 35, 36, 37)		E/1988/5/Add.4 E/1988/5/Add.8 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.18-20)			
6. Armenia	13 December 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
7. Australia*	10 March 1976	E/1978/8/Add.15 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.12-13)	E/1980/6/Add.22 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.18)	E/1982/3/Add.9 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.13-14)	E/1984/7/Add.22 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.17, 18 and 21)	E/1986/4/Add.7 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.10, 11, 13 and 14)	E/1990/7/Add.13 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.13, 15 and 20)
8. Austria	10 December 1978	E/1984/6/Add.17 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.3-4)	E/1980/6/Add.19 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.8)	E/1982/3/Add.37 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.3)	E/1990/6/Add.5 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.39-41)	E/1986/4/Add.8 and Corr.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.4 and 7)	E/1990/6/Add.5 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.39-41)
9. Azerbaijan	13 November 1992	Overdue					

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
10. Barbados	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.33 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.3)	E/1980/6/Add.27 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.6-7)	E/1982/3/Add.24 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.14-15)	Overdue		
11. Belarus*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.19 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.16)	E/1980/6/Add.18 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.16)	E/1982/3/Add.3 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1984/7/Add.8 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.13-15)	E/1986/4/Add.19 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.10-12)	E/1990/7/Add.5 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.2, 3 and 12)
12. Belgium	21 July 1983	E/1990/5/Add.15 (E/C.12/1994/SR.15-17)			Due on 30 June 1995		
13. Benin	12 June 1992	Overdue					
14. Bolivia	12 November 1982	Overdue					
15. Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 March 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
16. Brazil	24 April 1992	Overdue					
17. Bulgaria*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.24 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.12)	E/1980/6/Add.29 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.8)	E/1982/3/Add.23 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.11-13)	E/1984/7/Add.18 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.9 and 11)	E/1986/4/Add.20 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.17-19)	Overdue
18. Burundi	9 August 1990	Overdue					
19. Cambodia	26 August 1992	Overdue					
20. Cameroon	27 September 1984	Overdue	E/1986/3/Add.8 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.6-7)	Overdue			
21. Canada ***	19 August 1976	E/1978/8/Add 32 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.1-2)	E/1980/6/Add.32 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.4 and 6)	E/1982/3/Add.34 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.13, 15 and 16)	E/1984/7/Add.28 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.8 and 11)	E/1990/6/Add.3 (E/C.12/1993/SR.6, 7 and 18)	

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
22. Cape Verde	6 November 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
23. Central African Republic	8 August 1981	Overdue					
24. Chile*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.10 and 28 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.8-9)	E/1980/6/Add.4 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1982/3/Add.40 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.12-13 and 16)	E/1984/7/Add.1 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.11-12)	E/1986/4/Add.18 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.12-13 and 16)	Overdue
25. Colombia**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.17 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.15)	E/1986/3/Add.3 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.6 and 9)	E/1982/3/Add.36 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.15, 21 and 22)	E/1984/7/Add.21/ Rev.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.22 and 25)	E/1986/4/Add.25 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.12-14 and 17)	E/1990/7/Add.4 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.17, 18 and 25)
26. Congo	5 January 1984	Overdue					
27. Costa Rica	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.3 (E/C.12/1990/SR.38, 40, 41 and 43)			Overdue		
28. Côte d'Ivoire	26 June 1992	Overdue					
29. Croatia	8 October 1991	Overdue					
30. Cyprus*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.21 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.17)	E/1980/6/Add.3 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.6)	E/1982/3/Add.19 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.7-8)	E/1984/7/Add.13 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.18 and 22)	E/1986/4/Add.2 and 26 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.2, 3 and 5)	Overdue
31. Czech Republic	1 January 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
32. Democratic People's Republic of Korea	14 December 1981	E/1984/6/Add.7 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.21-22)	E/1986/3/Add.5 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.21-22)	E/1988/5/Add.6 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.6, 8 and 10)	Overdue		

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
33. Denmark*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.13 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1980/6/Add.15 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.12)	E/1982/3/Add.20 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.8-9)	E/1984/7/Add.11 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.17 and 21)	E/1986/4/Add.16 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.8-9)	Overdue
34. Dominica	17 September 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
35. Dominican Republic	4 April 1978	E/1990/5/Add.4 (E/C.12/1990/SR.43-45 and 47)			E/1990/6/Add.7 (Pending consideration)		
36. Ecuador	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.1 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.4-5)	E/1986/3/Add.14 E/1988/5/Add.7 (E/C.12/1990/SR.37-39 and 42)		E/1984/7/Add.12 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.20 and 22)	Overdue	
37. Egypt	14 April 1982	Overdue					
38. El Salvador	29 February 1980	Overdue					
39. Equatorial Guinea	25 December 1987	Overdue					
40. Estonia	21 January 1992	Overdue					
41. Ethiopia	11 September 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
42. Finland*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.14 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.6)	E/1980/6/Add.11 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1982/3/Add.28 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.7-8)	E/1984/7/Add.14 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.17-18)	E/1986/4/Add.4 (E/1986/WG.1 SR.8-9 and 11)	E/1990/7/Add.1 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.11, 12 and 16)
43. France	4 February 1981	E/1984/6/Add.11 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.18-19 and 21)	E/1986/3/Add.10 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.12-13)	E/1982/3/Add.30 and Corr.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.5 and 7)	Overdue		
44. Gabon	21 April 1983	Overdue					

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
45. Gambia	29 March 1979	Overdue					
46. Georgia	3 August 1994	Due on 30 June 1996					
47. Germany ***	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.8 and Corr.1 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.8) E/1978/8/Add.11 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1980/6/Add.6 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.8) E/1980/6/Add.10 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.10)	E/1982/3/Add.15 and Corr.1 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.5-6) E/1982/3/Add.14 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.17-18)	E/1984/7/Add.3 and 23 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.12 and 16) E/1984/7/Add.24 and Corr.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.22-23 and 25)	E/1986/4/Add.11 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.11, 12 and 14) E/1986/4/Add.10 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.19-20)	E/1990/7/Add.12 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.35, 36 and 46)
48. Greece	16 August 1985	Overdue					
49. Grenada	6 December 1991	Overdue					
50. Guatemala	19 August 1988	Overdue					
51. Guinea	24 April 1978	Overdue					
52. Guinea-Bissau	2 October 1992	Overdue					
53. Guyana	15 May 1977	Overdue	Overdue	E/1982/3/Add.5, 29 and 32 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.20 and 22 and E/1985/WG.1/ SR.6)			
54. Honduras	17 May 1981	Overdue					
55. Hungary*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.7 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1980/6/Add.37 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.6-7 and 9)	E/1982/3/Add.10 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.14)	E/1984/7/Add.15 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.19 and 21)	E/1986/4/Add.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.6-7 and 9)	E/1990/7/Add.10 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.9, 12 and 21)

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
56. Iceland	22 November 1979	E/1990/5/Add.6, (E/C.12/1993/SR.30, 31 and 46) E/1990/5/Add.14			Due on 30 June 1996		
57. India	10 July 1979	E/1984/6/Add.13 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.20 and 24)	E/1980/6/Add.34 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.6 and 8)	E/1988/5/Add.5 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.16-17 and 19)	Overdue		
58. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.9 (E/C.12/1993/SR.7-9 and 20)		E/1982/3/Add.43 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.42, 43 and 45)	Due on 30 June 1995		
59. Iraq	3 January 1976	E/1984/6/Add.3 and 8 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.8 and 11)	E/1980/6/Add.14 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.12)	E/1982/3/Add.26 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.3-4)	Overdue	E/1986/4/Add.3 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.8 and 11)	E/1990/7/Add.15 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.11 and 14)
60. Ireland	8 March 1990	Overdue					
61. Israel	3 January 1982	Overdue					
62. Italy	15 December 1978	E/1978/8/Add.34 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.3-4)	E/1980/6/Add.31 and 36 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.3 and 5)		E/1990/6/Add.2 (E/C.12/1992/SR.13, 14 and 21)		
63. Jamaica	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.27 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.20)	E/1986.. Add.12 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.10-12 and 15)	E/1988/5/Add.3 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.10-12 and 15)	E/1984/7/Add.30 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.10-12 and 15)	Overdue	

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
64. Japan	21 September 1979	E/1984/6/Add.6 and Corr.1 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1986/3/Add.4 and Corr.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.20-21 and 23)	E/1982/3/Add.7 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.12-13)	Overdue		
65. Jordan	3 January 1976	E/1984/6/Add.15 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.6-8)	E/1986/3/Add.6 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.8)	E/1982/3/Add.38/ Rev.1 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.30-32)	Overdue		
66. Kenya	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.18 (Pending consideration)					
67. Latvia	14 July 1992	Overdue					
68. Lebanon	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.16 (E/C.12/1993/SR.14, 16 and 21)			Due on 30 June 1995		
69. Lesotho	9 December 1992	Overdue					
70. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3 January 1976	Overdue	Overdue	E/1982/3/Add.6 and 25 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.16-17)			
71. Lithuania	20 February 1992	Overdue					
72. Luxembourg	18 November 1983	E/1990/5/Add.1 (E/C.12/1990/SR.33-36)			Overdue		

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
73. Macedonia, former Yugoslav Republic of	17 September 1991	Overdue					
74. Madagascar	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.29 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.2)	E/1980/6/Add.39 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.2-3 and 5)	Overdue	E/1984/7/Add.19 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.14 and 18)	Overdue	Overdue
75. Malawi	22 March 1994	Due on 30 June 1996					
76. Mali	3 January 1976	Overdue					
77. Malta	13 December 1990	Overdue					
78. Mauritius	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.21 (Pending consideration)					
79. Mexico	23 June 1981	E/1984/6/Add.2 and 10 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.24, 26 and 28)	E/1986/3/Add.13 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.6, 7 and 9)	E/1982/3/Add.8 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.14-15)	E/1990/6/Add.4 (E/C.12/1993/SR.32-35 and 49)		
80. Moldova	26 March 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
81. Mongolia*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.6 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1980/6/Add.7 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.8-9)	E/1982/3/Add.11 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.15-16)	E/1984/7/Add.6 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.16 and 18)	E/1986/4/Add.9 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.5 and 7)	Overdue
82. Morocco	3 August 1979	E/1990/5/Add.13 (E/C.12/1994/SR.8-10)			Due on 30 June 1995		
83. Namibia	28 February 1995	Due on 30 June 1997					
84. Nepal	14 August 1991	Overdue					

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
85. Netherlands	11 March 1979	E/1984/6/Add.14 and 20 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.5-6) (E/C.12/1989/ SR.14-15)	E/1980/6/Add.33 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.4-6 and 8)	E/1982/3/Add.35 and 44 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.14 and 18) (E/C.12/1989/ SR.14-15)	Overdue	E/1986/4/Add.24 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.14-15)	Overdue
86. New Zealand	28 March 1979	E/1990/5/Add.5, E/1990/5/Add.11 and E/1990/5/Add.12 (E/C.12/1993/SR.24, 25, 26 and 40)			Due on 30 June 1995		
87. Nicaragua	12 June 1980	E/1984/6/Add.9 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.16-17 and 19)	E/1986/3/Add.15 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.27, 28 and 46)	E/1982/3/Add.31 and Corr.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.15)	Due on 30 June 1995		
88. Niger	7 June 1986	Overdue					
89. Nigeria	29 October 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
90. Norway**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.12 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.5)	E/1980/6/Add.5 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.14)	E/1982/3/Add.12 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.16)	E/1984/7/Add.16 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.19 and 22)	E/1986/4/Add.21 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.14-15)	E/1990/7/Add.7 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.4, 5 and 12)
91. Panama	8 June 1977	E/1984/6/Add.19 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.3, 5 and 8)	E/1980/6/Add.20 and 23 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.5)	E/1988/5/Add.9 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.3, 5 and 8)	Overdue	E/1986/4/Add.22 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.3, 5 and 8)	Overdue
92. Paraguay	10 September 1992	E/1990/5/Add.23 (Pending consideration)					
93. Peru	28 July 1978	E/1984/6/Add.5 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.11 and 18)	Overdue	Overdue			

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
94. Philippines	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.4 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.11)	E/1986/3/Add.17 (Pending consideration)	E/1988/5/Add.2 (E/C.12/1990/ SR.8-9 and 11)	E/1984/7/Add.4 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.15 and 20)		
95. Poland*	18 June 1977	E/1978/8/Add.23 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.18-19)	E/1980/6/Add.12 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.11)	E/1982/3/Add.21 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1984/7/Add.26 and 27 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.25-27)	E/1986/4/Add.12 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.5-6)	E/1990/7/Add.9 (E/C.12/1992/ SR.6, 7 and 15)
96. Portugal	31 October 1978		E/1980/6/Add.35/ Rev.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.2 and 4)	E/1982/3/Add.27/ Rev.1 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.6 and 9)	E/1990/6/Add.6 (Pending consideration)		
97. Republic of Korea	10 July 1990	E/1990/5/Add.19 (Pending consideration)					
98. Romania*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.20 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.16-17)	E/1980/6/Add.1 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.5)	E/1982/3/Add.13 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.17-18)	E/1984/7/Add.17 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.10 and 13)	E/1986/4/Add.17 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.6)	E/1990/7/Add.14 (E/C.12/1994/ SR.5, 7 and 13)
99. Russian Federation*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.16 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.14)	E/1980/6/Add.17 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.14-15)	E/1982/3/Add.1 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.11-12)	E/1984/7/Add.7 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.9-10)	E/1986/4/Add.14 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.16-18)	E/1990/7/Add.8 (withdrawn)
100. Rwanda	3 January 1976	E/1984/6/Add.4 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.10 and 12)	E/1986/3/Add.1 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.16 and 19)	E/1982/3/Add.42 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.10-12)	E/1984/7/Add.29 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.10-12)	Overdue	Overdue
101. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 February 1982	Overdue					
102. San Marino	18 January 1986	Overdue					

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
103. Senegal	13 May 1978	E/1984/6/Add.22 (E/C.12/1993/ SR.37, 38 and 49)	E/1980/6/Add.13/ Rev.1 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.11)	E/1982/3/Add.17 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.14-16)	Due on 30 June 1995		
104. Seychelles	5 August 1982	Overdue					
105. Slovakia	28 May 1993	Due on 30 June 1995					
106. Slovenia	6 July 1992	Overdue					
107. Solomon Islands	17 March 1982	Overdue					
108. Somalia	24 April 1990	Overdue					
109. Spain **	27 July 1977	E/1978/8/Add.26 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.20)	E/1980/6/Add.28 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.7)	E/1982/3/Add.22 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.10-11)	E/1984/7/Add.2 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.12 and 14)	E/1986/4/Add.6 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.10 and 13)	E/1990/7/Add.3 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.13, 14, 16 and 22)
110. Sri Lanka	11 September 1980	Overdue					
111. Sudan	18 June 1986	Overdue					
112. Suriname	28 March 1977	E/1990/5/Add.20 (Pending consideration)					
113. Sweden**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.5 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.15)	E/1980/6/Add.8 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.9)	E/1982/3/Add.2 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.19-20)	E/1984/7/Add.5 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.14 and 16)	E/1986/4/Add.13 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.10-11)	E/1990/7/Add.2 (E/C.12/1991/ SR.11-13 and 18)
114. Switzerland	18 September 1992	Overdue					

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
115. Syrian Arab Republic*	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.25 and 31 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.2)	E/1980/6/Add.9 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.4)		E/1990/6/Add.1 (E/C.12/1991/SR.7, 9 and 11)		
116. Togo	24 August 1984	Overdue					
117. Trinidad and Tobago	8 March 1979	E/1984/6/Add.21	E/1986/3/Add.11 (E/C.12/1989/SR.17-19)	E/1988/5/Add.1	Overdue		
118. Tunisia	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.3 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.5-6)	E/1986/3/Add.9 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.9)	Overdue	Due on 30 June 1995		
119. Uganda	21 April 1987	Overdue					
120. Ukraine**	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.22 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.18)	E/1980/6/Add.24 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.5-6)	E/1982/3/Add.4 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.11-12)	E/1984/7/Add.9 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.13-15)	E/1986/4/Add.5 (E/C.12/1987/ SR.9-11)	E/1990/7/Add.11 (withdrawn)
121. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*	20 August 1976	E/1978/8/Add.9 and 30 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.19 and E/1982/WG.1/ SR.1)	E/1980/6/Add.16 and Corr.1, Add.25 and Corr.1 and Add.26 (E/1981/WG.1/ SR.16-17)	E/1982/3/Add.16 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.19-21)	E/1984/7/Add.20 (E/1985/WG.1/ SR.14 and 17)	E/1986/4/Add.23 (E/C.12/1989/ SR.16-17) E/1986/4/Add.27 E/1986/4/28 E/C.12/1994/ SR.33, 34, 36, 37	E/1990/7/Add.16 E/C.12/1994/ SR.33, 34, 36 and 37
122. United Republic of Tanzania	11 September 1976	Overdue	E/1980/6/Add.2 (E/1980/WG.1/ SR.5)	Overdue			

Annex (continued)

State party	Date of entry into force	INITIAL REPORTS			SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS		
		Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15	Articles 6-9	Articles 10-12	Articles 13-15
		(Summary records of consideration of reports)					
123. Uruguay	3 January 1976	E/1990/5/Add.7 (E/C.12/1994/SR.3, 4, 6 and 13)			Due on 30 June 1995		
124. Venezuela	10 August 1978	E/1984/6/Add.1 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.7-8 and 10)	E/1980/6/Add.38 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.2 and 5)	E/1982/3/Add.33 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.12, 17 and 18)	Overdue		
125. Viet Nam	24 December 1982	E/1990/5/Add.10 (E/C.12/1993/SR.9-11 and 19)			Due on 30 June 1995		
126. Yemen	9 May 1987	Overdue					
127. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	3 January 1976	E/1978/8/Add.35 (E/1982/WG.1/ SR.4-5)	E/1980/6/Add.30 (E/1983/WG.1/ SR.3)	E/1982/3/Add.39 (E/C.12/1988/ SR.14-15)	E/1984/7/Add.10 (E/1984/WG.1/ SR.16 and 18)	Overdue	Overdue
128. Zaire	1 February 1977	E/1984/6/Add.18	E/1986/3/Add.7	E/1982/3/Add.41 (E/C.12/1988/SR.16-19)	Overdue		
129. Zambia	10 July 1984	Overdue	E/1986/3/Add.2 (E/1986/WG.1/ SR.4-5 and 7)	Overdue			
130. Zimbabwe	13 August 1991	Overdue					

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* Third periodic report which was due on 30 June 1994, has not yet been received.

** Third periodic report of Colombia was received on 20 July 1994 (E/1994/104/Add.2). Third periodic report of Sweden was received on 22 June 1994 (E/1994/104/Add.1); third periodic report of Norway was received on 3 August 1994 (E/1994/104/Add.3); third periodic report of Ukraine was received on 19 September 1994 (E/1994/104/Add.4).

*** Third periodic report due on 30 June 1995.

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER
ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. The Committee considered the initial report of the Republic of Korea on articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant (E/1990/5/Add.19) at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings (E/C.12/1995/SR.3, 4 and 6) held on 2 and 3 May 1995 and adopted* the following concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for its comprehensive report, prepared largely in conformity with the Committee's guidelines, and for the written replies to the list of questions made available to it before the session. The State party is also to be commended for sending a large high level delegation to discuss the report and for its useful dialogue with the Committee. The Committee, however notes, that the report, although comprehensive in form provided information which in many areas was excessively general in content. Accordingly, the offer of the Government to furnish further and precise written responses to questions posed is welcomed. The Committee appreciates the subsequent prompt submission of those replies on 5 of May 1995 by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

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* At its 27th meeting (twelfth session) held on 18 May 1995.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee notes, with satisfaction, the significant and rapid economic growth during the past 30 years in the Republic of Korea and that the considerable material progress achieved should lay the foundation for the enhanced enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. The Committee further notes the first steps taken towards the development of a social security system appropriate to a country at the Republic of Korea's stage of development. Further positive developments in the Korean society are evidenced by the virtual eradication of illiteracy among all sectors of society other than older persons, the increase in the level of life expectancy and the efforts to increase the national housing pool.

4. The Committee takes note of the recent legislative attempts to address the problem of violence against women in the family and the attempt to recognize the rights of women to inheritance.

5. The Committee welcomes establishment of human rights focal points in the major government ministries, including the provision of legal aid through the introduction of the Public Legal Officers System.

C. Factors and difficulties impeding the application of the Covenant

6. The Committee recognises that Korea is passing through a period of social and political transition. The developments in each of these areas have not been sufficiently balanced. The efforts and achievements in securing outstanding and rapid economic growth have not always been matched by an appropriate level of protection of economic, social and cultural rights. It is also acknowledged that the country has only recently emerged from a sustained period of military rule to a system of democratic government and that it faces a heavy agenda of changes in the establishment of a civic society, particularly in the face of deeply entrenched social prejudices. Finally, problems deriving from the political partition of the Korean peninsula continue to impose a pervasive fortress mentality arising from perceived threats to national security.

D. Principal subjects of concern

7. The Committee is concerned as to the status of the Covenant in national law. Although representatives of the Republic of Korea have asserted that all domestic legislation is consistent with the provisions of the Covenant, the Committee remains concerned that no mechanisms exist permitting the verification of compatibility between domestic legislation and the provisions of the Covenant.

8. The Committee is of the view that restrictions concerning the right to form trade unions are not consistent with the obligations assumed by the Republic of Korea under article 8 of the Covenant. There is no apparent reason for the ban on the formation of trade unions by groups such as the teaching profession, particularly where the prohibition does not apply to other groups including workers in the defence industry. Similarly, the regulations concerning the right to strike are excessively restrictive and

would appear to leave to the authorities an almost absolute discretion in the determination of the legality of incidents of industrial action. Whilst acknowledging the cultural traditions of the Republic of Korea, including the high esteem in which teachers are held, the Committee finds this to be a wholly unacceptable basis on which to defend the excessive limitation on the freedom of significant sectors of the Korean society to enjoy the basic right to belong to unions of their choice.

9. The Committee is also greatly disturbed by reports of dismissals for engaging in industrial action and of police attacks on trade unionists engaged in peaceful activities.

10. Despite the Government's stated policy and its range of special programmes, the Committee views the situation of women in Korean society as very unsatisfactory. In all areas of life women suffer from discriminatory practices due to many factors, including long standing cultural prejudice. In the home, the subjugation of women is evidenced by the very high levels of domestic violence against them which is disclosed in the Government's report. Notice is also taken of such anachronistic rules as the legal inability of a woman in certain cases to vest her nationality in her child. In education the disparities between the percentages of men over women in second and third level institutions is disturbing. In this regard the Committee observes that the lack of access to and high cost of secondary and higher education contribute to the low rate of female participation.

11. Particular concern is expressed as to the wage differential between men and women and to other discriminatory practices in the workplace including an apparently high rate of sexual discrimination in recruitment. The Committee expresses its concern with regard to the non-enforcement by the Government of its own policies and legislation in these matters.

12. The Committee is alarmed that there has been a relatively high incidence of accidents in the workplace in Korea and that there has been a failure to adequately address the problem. It is especially disturbing that various work-place regulations do not apply to enterprises with fewer than 10 employees. The failure of minimum wage regulations to extend to staff of these enterprises is to be regretted and the Committee welcomes the Government's stated intention to review the situation. The conditions and treatment of those non-nationals in the Korean workforce give cause for concern and the information made available to the Committee by the Government does not disclose an adequate range of legal measures to protect such workers.

13. The Committee is disturbed by a range of features of the Korean education system. Only primary education is provided free of charge. However, given the strength of the Korean economy it appears appropriate that free education should also extend to the secondary and higher sectors. The Committee also notes the acknowledgement made orally by the Government's representative that there is a severe problem of under supply of places in higher education resulting in extremely competitive entry requirements. One consequence of this situation is that private institutions are likely to raise their charges and thus force the children of the lower-income groups to stay out of the system.

14. The Committee is concerned by the housing situation in Korea and considers that it has not been given adequate information on the subject, especially with regard to unsuitable housing, the number of homeless people and forcible evictions. It notes that, according to international non-governmental sources, 720,000 persons were evicted on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Seoul and that no information has been provided on their subsequent situation, while 16,000 persons are said to have been evicted since February 1992. Lastly, according to national non-governmental sources, 4,000 evictions took place in 1994. Despite the Committee's concerns, there has been no response to its questions or, more generally, to problems relating to the right to housing.

15. The Committee is of the view that the Government, in view of its economic resources, has inadequately addressed the economic, social and cultural rights of the most marginalized members of society. Among categories of person who are in need of greater attention and concern are the very poor, the homeless and especially victims of severe physical and mental handicap.

E. Suggestions and recommendations

16. The Committee draws attention to the obligation on the Republic of Korea to ensure the status of the Covenant in the field of economic, social and cultural rights as superior to all national law whether precedent or antecedent. It recommends that all laws be examined in order to ensure conformity with the provisions of the Covenant. It also recommends that programmes of education be extended in order to increase awareness of the provisions of the Covenant throughout society and to ensure its application in the judicial process as well as its observance by the law enforcement agencies.

17. The Committee recommends that the Government immediately amend its laws and regulations concerning the freedom to form trade unions and the right to strike in order to bring them into compliance with the Covenant and with other applicable international standards. In particular, measures should be taken to ensure that teachers, civil servants and others have the right to form trade unions and to take strike action.

18. The Committee, though acknowledging the value of existing governmental programmes, urges that priority be given to the promotion of the role of women in the society. It is strongly recommended that in order to deal with discrimination against women, it is necessary to allocate resources to carry out a range of initiatives in the fields, inter alia, of juvenile and adult education, enhanced job opportunities, law reform and the administration of justice. It is also recommended that programmes should be introduced with a view to redressing the imbalances in the status of women in the Korean society.

19. The Committee recommends that the Republic of Korea extend the regulations on safety in the workplace and on minimum wages to enterprises with fewer than 10 employees. All improvements in conditions of work should be applied equally to national and non-national workers and existing discriminatory practices against those non-nationals currently employed should be eradicated.

20. The Committee recommends that appropriate measures should be taken in order more effectively to guarantee the right to housing and, in particular, to ensure that no evictions are carried out without offers of alternative housing, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 4. It would also like further information on the application of article 11 of the Covenant in Korea and in particular on the right to housing.

21. The Committee also recommends that immediate attention be given to problems in the field of education and in particular to enhancing the access of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and especially women, to secondary and higher education, the need for an expanded higher education sector. The Committee recommends that greater attention be given to the provision of human rights education at all levels in the school system.

22. While it is acknowledged that the Republic of Korea has introduced elements of a social welfare system, it is urged to proceed swiftly with its expansion to meet the needs of those on the margins of society including foreign workers. The protection of foreign workers needs, in its turn, particular attention especially considering their social isolation and vulnerability. Particular attention is drawn to the very poor, the homeless and the victims of severe mental or physical illness.

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights

PORTUGAL

1. At its 7th, 8th and 10th meetings, held on 4 and 5 May 1995, the Committee considered the second periodic report of Portugal concerning rights covered by articles 1-15 of the Covenant (E/1990/6/Add.6), as well as the written replies to the additional questions formulated by the pre-sessional working group, and approved* the following observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee expressed great appreciation to the State party for its comprehensive and detailed report and the substantial additional information which it communicated by writing, as well as for the excellent dialogue established between the members of the Committee and the large delegation of experts, which included a number of women representing relevant parts of the Portuguese Government.

3. The Committee is most appreciative of the transparent, detailed and precise manner in which the Portuguese delegation replied to all its questions, demonstrating the firm determination of the Government of Portugal to implement all the provisions of the Covenant.

* At its 27th meeting (twelfth session) held on 18 May 1995.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee congratulates Portugal on the numerous constitutional, legislative and other measures which it has taken to promote the realization of economic, social and cultural rights as provided for in the Covenant. It notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Government to tackle unemployment from various angles, the positive measures undertaken with regard to the protection of the economic, social and cultural rights of women, elderly workers and disabled persons, the increase, both in absolute terms and in proportion to military expenditures, of public spending on health, the existence of a non-contributory social security system in parallel with the general system, and the measures taken to regularize the situation of clandestine immigrant workers.

5. The Committee welcomes the decision of the Portuguese Government to ratify International Labour Organization Convention No. 138 concerning minimum age for admission to employment. It also notes with interest the raising of the minimum age for access to employment in 1992, the recent decision to increase the duration of compulsory schooling to nine years and the various measures taken to combat child labour.

6. The Committee notes with satisfaction the campaigns conducted against intolerance and racial discrimination, in favour of equality between the sexes and against child labour. The Committee notes with interest the training courses on human rights given to law enforcement and judicial personnel, as also the information campaign on the Covenant and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

7. The Committee appreciates the efforts being made by the Portuguese Government to secure from the Government of the People's Republic of China all possible guarantees regarding respect for the provisions of the Covenant in the territory of Macao after 1999.

C. Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Covenant

8. The Committee notes that Portugal is in a situation of economic transition and, in certain respects, still has the characteristics of a developing country, particularly an illiteracy rate which remains fairly high and an appreciable proportion of the population living below the poverty line.

D. Main subjects of concern

9. The Committee notes with concern that, despite the existing legislative provisions and the efforts of the Commission on Equality in Employment, there is still de facto discrimination against women with regard to the right to equal treatment at work and the right to equal remuneration.

10. The Committee notes that the increase in the minimum wage has not kept pace with economic growth in recent years and is concerned over a tendency for the minimum wage to depreciate.

11. The Committee is also disturbed by the fact that secondary and higher education enrolment rates are still relatively low compared to countries with a stage of development comparable to that of Portugal. Drop-out and failure rates at the secondary and higher levels also remain high.

E. Recommendations and suggestions

12. The Committee recommends that the Portuguese authorities should continue their efforts with a view to ensuring de facto equality between men and women, particularly in the fields of access to employment and equal pay for equal work.

13. The Committee recommends that the Government seek to ensure a gradual increase in the minimum wage, which should take account of Portugal's economic growth and the inflation rate, with the object of increasing the purchasing power of those living on the minimum wage.

14. The Committee urges the State party to continue its efforts to guarantee the right to housing for the most vulnerable groups, through improved sanitation and rehabilitation of dwellings that are insanitary or lack minimum basic services.

15. The Committee recommends that the Government take measures with a view to encouraging registration in secondary and higher education and to facilitate access to secondary and higher levels of education of persons from lower income families.

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT

Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights

SWEDEN

1. At its 13th, 15th and 16th meetings, held on 9 and 10 May 1995, the Committee considered the third periodic report of Sweden concerning the rights covered by articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant (E/1994/104/Add.1), along with the written replies to the list of issues prepared by the pre-sessional working group and adopted* the following concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the report and supplementary information submitted by the State party, as well as the written answers to the list of issues, and welcomes the high-level delegation representing the State party during the consideration of the report. The Committee expresses satisfaction at the quality of the dialogue established between it and the State party, which it considers to have been frank and highly constructive in enabling the Committee to gain a clear understanding of the extent of the State party's compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

B. Positive Aspects

3. The Committee notes with satisfaction Sweden's achievements to date in promoting economic stability and providing social benefits for most persons living within its territory. It welcomes the recent establishment of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman and the previously noted Office of the Ombudsman

* At the 27th meeting (twelfth session), held on 18 May 1995.

against Ethnic Discrimination. It further notes with appreciation the high degree of attention being paid to human rights in the areas of education, overseas development assistance, and training of personnel involved in the administration of justice.

4. The Committee acknowledges the social assistance benefits being accorded to refugees, which include provision of temporary housing and other settlement benefits.

5. The Committee also notes the significant degree of autonomy granted to the Sami people, which is evident in the existence of a parliament elected by the Sami, in their education and their cultural and economic activities.

6. The Committee welcomes the Government's training policies to assist the unemployed, particularly among young persons-the group which has been most affected by the economic recession, learn new skills to facilitate their return to the labour force.

C. Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Covenant

7. The Committee takes note of Sweden's reduced financial ability to continue its programmes of social security at the levels enjoyed in the past, due in part to the domestic structural adjustment and the effects of the global economic recession on the internal economic situation in Sweden. The Committee notes that the recession has aggravated the levels of unemployment, especially among men and young persons.

8. The Committee also notes with concern the growing number of immigrants whose economic, social and cultural rights Sweden should endeavour to protect. The Committee further notes that the problems of this group are aggravated by their unfamiliarity with Swedish culture and language, which renders more difficult their ability to find gainful employment. The economic recession has unfortunately contributed to rising social tensions which have been manifested in the rising number of cases of racism, xenophobia and segregation and which have sometimes resulted in violence.

D. Principal subjects of concern

9. The Committee notes that many of the Government's social welfare programmes have been curtailed in response to the changed economic conditions. In this regard, the Committee notes with concern the adverse impact of the economic recession on the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups.

10. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information possessed by the Swedish Government in relation to the problems of child pornography and domestic violence against women. The Committee notes that the Government considers these to be serious problems and is concerned that the lack of statistical information on these problems prevents both the Committee and the Government itself from ascertaining the true extent of the problems and thus hinders efforts to combat them.

11. The Committee notes that the Government of Sweden has not ratified ILO Convention 103 on maternal protection in due course.

E. Suggestions and recommendations

12. The Committee encourages the Government to continue to take adequate measures to ensure that the reduction of the Government's social welfare programmes do not result in a violation of the State party's obligations under the Covenant. In this connection, the Committee recommends that particular attention be paid to fighting unemployment and to ensuring the same degree of welfare to all segments of the Swedish society, as well as to speeding up the social integration of the immigrants.

13. The Committee urges the Government to intensify its efforts to combat child pornography and domestic violence against women, as well as its measures for monitoring and registering all such cases. It draws attention to the need to ensure the imposition of appropriate penalties for such offences.

14. In view of the importance of maternity leave in context of article 10 of the Covenant, the Committee encourages the Government in its stated intention to review its position with regard to ILO Convention 103.

15. The Committee welcomes the delegation's offer to provide additional written responses to the issues raised but not fully addressed during the consideration of the report, particularly regarding the status of the Covenant in domestic law, and in relation to cases where the Covenant was invoked in a court of law, and the results of any such cases. The Committee also looks forward to receiving information regarding the status of immigrants and the Government's efforts to combat discrimination and violence against them.